

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that claims 1-6 were pending, and the Examiner rejected all claims. Various claims have been amended, claim 2 has been cancelled and new claims 7 and 8 have been added. Thus, in view of the forgoing, claims 1 and 3-8 are pending in this application. No new matter has been added. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below.

The Rejections

In items 5-8 on pages 2-7 of the Office Action the Examiner has rejected claims 1-6 over newly cited U.S. Patent 6,155,840 to Sallette, either taken alone or in combination with previously cited U.S. Patent 6,199,076 to Logan et al.

The Present Invention

The present invention is directed to causing a plurality of remote output terminals (such as remote computers) to play a desired output to users (listeners, watchers, etc.) at each of the terminals at essentially the same time under the control of a controller (such as a local computer). This allows a presenter, such as a teacher, to control what is presented to each of the remote output terminals, such as student computers, in a controlled, accurate and rapid manner. The control or presenter computer reviews a sequence for the presentation and for each presentation segment, outputs an address for that segment material to the user computers. The user computers use the address to obtain the segment and play it to the users. In the context of an Internet presentation, the presenter or control computer transmits an Internet address to the remote computers and all of the remote computers retrieve the content that is played from an Internet server using the address. The present invention solves the problem of how to present material to plural users at the same time where the material may not be located where the students and teacher are located.

The Prior Art

The Sallette reference is directed to a system and method for distributed learning which includes a distributed learning server coupled to presenter and audience computer systems via

a network. Column 7 of Sallette describes Figure 4 which is said to allow a presenter to define and select a source of data. The display includes "an address field" 410 for allowing a presenter to submit the address on the network 104 of the source of data. Column 6 of Sallette describes that a presenter may provide a Power Point slide presentation to audience members or that "the presenter may cause the audience members to view a particular Internet web page." (See column 6, lines 21-30.) Figure 1 of Sallette discloses two presenter computer systems 106A and 106B, and four audience member computer systems 108A to 108D, all of which are coupled to a network 104, such as the Internet. Referring to Figure 3, a distributed learning control module 310 controls communications among the various computer systems and the distributed learning system 100.

Logan is directed to a system in which an audio player 103 issues a play request to a host server system 101 and the requested audio material is transmitted by be played by the player 103. The user of the player 103 can control the playback of the audio material by the player 103 such that the user can skip forward, skip backward, etc. The host system 101 can serve the play request based on a schedule held by the host. This schedule can be downloaded to the player 103 and the player 103 can be used to alter the schedule, such as by deleting or rearranging the order of material to be played as well as by adding material. The schedule is created for each individual user based on user selections and other preferences. The user can decide to use or not use the schedule. The material to be played, the order of playing, etc. is controlled by the user to allow the user to dynamically locate and select desired material. That is, in Logan the user is in control.

The Present Claimed Invention Patentably Distinguishes Over the Prior Art

By this Amendment, the features of prior claim 2 have been added to independent claim 1 and independent claim 6. Therefore, all of the independent claims (claims 1 and 3-6) now include subject matter relating to a correspondence relationship between the plurality of pieces of address information and a plurality of sequence numbers representing the output sequence, wherein a piece of address information is determined by referring to the correspondence relationship.

In rejecting claims 2 and 4-5 in item 8 on pages 6 and 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner acknowledged that the Sallette reference "does not teach that the sequence comprises sequence numbers representing the output sequence." This corresponds to the recitation, for example, in prior claim 2 of "a storing unit storing a correspondence relationship

between the plurality of pieces of address information and a plurality of sequence numbers representing the output sequence.” However, the Examiner takes the position that Logan teaches a program segment identification number representing the output sequence in column 12. Further, the Examiner takes the position that:

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to associate address information with a sequence number as taught by Logan (associating a hyperlink with the Program ID number of the segment. See columns 2-3, 12 and 31) with Sallette's system for providing a presentation to an audience using a predetermined streaming data source with associated addresses because it allows the preselected sources of data to be synchronized with the correct address information using sequence numbers that correlate to the segment portion. This would allow a user to jump to a different portion of the output sequence (or slide show) and maintain address information.

(See page 7 of Office Action.)

The Logan patent is directed to a system in which an audio player 103 issues a play request to a host server system 101 and the requested audio material is transmitted to be played by the player 103. The user of the player 103 can control the playback of the audio material by the player 103 such that the user can skip forward, skip backward, etc. The host system 101 can serve the play request based on the schedule held by the host. The schedule can be downloaded to the player 103 and the player 103 can be used to alter the schedule such as by deleting or rearranging the order of material to be played, as well as by adding material. The material to be played, the order of playing etc., is controlled by the user to allow the user to dynamically locate and select desired material.

Both the present invention and Sallette are directed to arrangements in which the presenter, and not the user, controls the presentation. In contrast, the Logan reference teaches away from the type of presenter control used in the present invention and described in Sallette. Therefore, it is submitted that one of ordinary skill would not have been led to combine the user controlled arrangement of Logan with the presenter controlled arrangement of Sallette to achieve the present claimed invention.

Referring to claim 1, it is submitted that the prior art does not teach or suggest the claimed slide show system including:

a storing unit storing a correspondence relationship between the plurality of pieces of address information and a plurality of sequence numbers representing the output sequence,

wherein said presenter controlled control unit determines a piece of address information notified to the remote side computer terminals by referring to the correspondence relationship.

Therefore, it is submitted that claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the prior art.

Referring to claim 3, it is submitted that the prior art does not teach or suggest the claimed slide show system which includes:

a storing unit storing a correspondence relationship between the plurality of pieces of address information and a plurality of sequence numbers representing the predetermined output sequence,

wherein said presenter controlled computer terminal determines a piece of address information transmitted from the local side presenter controlled computer terminal by referring to the correspondence relationship.

Therefore, it is submitted that claim 3 patentably distinguishes over the prior art.

Referring to claim 4, it is submitted that the prior art does not teach or suggest the claimed computer readable storage medium storing a program which causes a computer to execute a process for the local slide presenter controlled computer terminal which includes:

referring to a correspondence relationship between a plurality of pieces of address information selected by the presenter and defined on an information network for the local side presenter controlled computer terminal, and a sequence number representing a predetermined output sequence;

transmitting to a remote side address information the plurality of pieces of address information one by one corresponding to a current sequence number; and

instructing the remote side to output information corresponding to each transmitted piece of address information.

Therefore, it is submitted that claim 4 patentably distinguishes over the prior art.

Referring to claim 5, it is submitted that the prior art does not teach or suggest the claimed computer readable storage medium storing a program which executes a process of:

receiving from a local side presenter controlled computer terminal a plurality of pieces of address information selected by the presenter and corresponding to a current sequence number, which is obtained from a correspondence relationship between the plurality of pieces of address information defined on an information network, and a sequence number representing a predetermined output sequence;

notifying a browser of each received piece of received address information; and

instructing the browser to output information corresponding to each received piece of notified address information.

Therefore, it is submitted that claim 5 patentably distinguishes over the prior art.

Referring to claim 6, it is submitted that the prior art does not teach or suggest the claimed presentation process which includes:

storing a correspondence relationship between the storage addresses and the sequence of material segments to be presented; and

determining one of the storage addresses transmitted to the third computers by referring to the correspondence relationship.

Therefore, it is submitted that claim 6 patentably distinguishes over the prior art.

New Claims 7 and 8

New claims 7 and 8 are dependent claims which recite a bookmark data feature of the present claimed invention. These features are fully supported by Figures 22 and 23 and page 45, line 20 to page 49, line 6 of the specification. It is submitted that these bookmark features are not taught or suggested by the prior art. Therefore, it is submitted that claims 7 and 8 patentably distinguish over the prior art for this reason and because they depend from patentable claims 1 and 3 respectively.

Summary

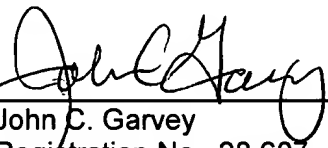
It is submitted that the claims are not taught, disclosed or suggested by the prior art. The claims are therefore in a condition suitable for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is requested.

If any further fees, other than and except for the issue fee, are necessary with respect to this paper, the U.S.P.T.O. is requested to obtain the same from deposit account number 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 4-13-05

By: 
John C. Garvey
Registration No. 28,607

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501